

### **Remarks**

The claims have been amended to recite that the product of the first stage is directly input into the reciprocating kneader. The lack of this limitation was a part of the basis of the Board of Appeals' affirmance of the rejection of the claims. It is anticipated that further claim amendments will be made, and that comparative results may be provided as well.

With regards to the Board's comment that the significance of the existing comparative test results have not been explained, Applicants fail to understand this comment, as improvement in the reduction of volatiles should be readily apparent to one skilled in the art, as well as the freedom from discoloration. Compositions which produce bubble-containing moldings and which discolor are not suitable as commercial products.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for Allowance, and respectfully request a Notice to that effect. If the Examiner believes that further discussion will advance the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is highly encouraged to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

**Manfred Heisler et al.**

By 

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